

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

CONSUMERS' MARKET SERVICE

Issued by Consumers' Counsel Division

Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C.

2CM
Note: Our regular issue for January 1, 1939 was omitted, because of unavoidable delays which would have made the market information out of date by the time it could reach you.

★ JAN 28 1939 ★
U. S. Department of Agriculture

Volume III, No. 4

January 15, 1939.

Supplies of most foods during the first half of 1939 are expected to be larger than a year ago. Increases over 1938 are in prospect for oranges, grapefruit, tangerines, butter, cheese, eggs, poultry, better grade beef, pork and pork products, lamb, canned string beans, canned peas, most winter vegetables, cereal products, flour, raisins, dried beans, peanuts, canned peaches, canned pears, canned pineapple, and rice. However, smaller supplies of apples, lower grade beef, veal, canned tomatoes, old potatoes, nuts, dried prunes, dried peaches, and dried apricots are expected.

Record egg production for this time of the year, principally due to favorable weather coupled with a more than seasonal increase in the size of laying flocks, resulted in a sharp and larger than usual drop in wholesale prices of top grade eggs during the first half of this month. Ordinarily egg prices are highest in November and then move down through April. Prices during January and February are influenced considerably by weather conditions. Mild weather stimulates production and accentuates the seasonal decline. Periods of unusually cold weather, however, not only check production but also interfere with shipments to market and thus either slow up the seasonal decline or cause prices to go up temporarily.

Florida strawberry shipments are increasing and are expected to be much more plentiful than a year ago, unless weather conditions turn unfavorable. Most strawberries marketed during January and February come from Florida and during March Louisiana, the largest single strawberry producing area, starts shipping. As the weather turns warmer additional States start marketing berries and prices go down until they hit bottom in late May or early June. Quality in strawberries is indicated by general appearance. Top quality berries have a solid red color, a clean bright appearance, are free from moisture, and have the cap attached.

Oranges and grapefruit continue in abundant supply and prices remain at relatively low levels. Shipments of grapefruit and oranges

(Over)

ordinarily are largest in December, January, and February and consequently prices usually are lowest in this 3-month period. Because of large crops in recent years prices have shown much less than their usual variation during the season. Markings on the skin of citrus fruits generally have little effect on quality. Best single test--outside of cutting the fruit open--is weight. Heavy, thin-skinned grapefruit and oranges usually are juicy.

Apple supplies during the first half of the year come from storage warehouses and as a result prices generally trend upward. Supplies in warehouses January 1 were smaller than a year ago.

California artichokes are now moving to market and seasonal increases in supply are in prospect until April or May when shipments usually are heaviest. Bulk of domestic 'chokes come from California, where the season runs from November through May. Best indication of freshness in artichokes is color: fresh plants are green and those that have been injured or are old have a brownish color. Size is not an indicator of quality or flavor.

Winter vegetable prospects improved considerably during the first half of January as the result of favorable growing conditions. Increases in supply over 1938 are in prospect for new cabbage and spinach; decreases in new carrots, new celery, and the first crop of early potatoes. Winter production of snap beans and beets is expected to be about the same as a year earlier.

Butter prices have dropped back to the level which prevailed during most of the last half of 1938 and it appears that the high point in butter prices for the current season has been passed. Ordinarily butter prices go up from June through December, and then this price increase is cancelled from December through June. Heavy milk production, which in turn resulted in heavy production of butter and other manufactured dairy products, has been a major factor in keeping butter prices well below their 1937-38 level and in retarding the seasonal price upswing.

A seasonal increase in supply and larger supplies than in 1938 are in prospect for better grade beef during the first quarter of this year. Prices of better grade cattle to date have failed to register their usual seasonal decline, which generally gets under way in November. Prices have gone up and are higher than they were a year earlier. Two of the major factors which have checked the seasonal decline have been small supplies of calves and low grade cattle and an upswing in consumer incomes.

CONSUMERS MARKET SERVICE

Issued by Consumers' Counsel Division

Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C.

Volume III, No. 5

February 1, 1939.

Food supplies during February are expected to continue larger than a year earlier. Especially marked increases are in prospect for oranges, grapefruit, dairy products, cabbage, pork, lard, and better grade beef. During February seasonal increases in supply over January are expected in better grade beef, butter, milk, eggs, new potatoes, better grade lamb, and most green vegetables. Decreases, however, are in prospect for lower grade beef and poultry.

Egg supplies in February probably will be more plentiful than a year ago, but there is some doubt as to whether or not the increase over 1938 will be as large as that which occurred in January. Egg production generally increases during the first quarter of the year and reaches its peak in April. Prices generally go down during this period, but in years when prices drop sharply during January, as they did this year, very little additional seasonal price change occurs. This downward trend in prices often is checked temporarily in February by cold weather.

More onions, but less potatoes than a year ago are in prospect for the first third of 1939. Both new and old potatoes are now available at markets, but up until May old potatoes comprise the major portion of the total supply. Supplies of old potatoes, which now come from storage warehouses, are about a tenth smaller than a year ago. Production of the earliest maturing new potatoes is expected to be smaller than a year ago. Onions now available consist mainly of those harvested last fall and placed in storage to bridge the gap in production until the new onion crop is marketed in volume in April. Storage holdings of these late onions are almost a tenth larger than a year ago. Ordinarily prices of old onions and potatoes advance seasonally during the first third of the year. Prices of new potatoes, however, move down during this period.

Cabbage supplies are more plentiful than a year ago because of larger amounts of both old and new cabbage. New cabbage differs from old cabbage in that it has deep green leaves, and comes in fairly loose heads. It does not keep as well as old cabbage and loses its freshness rapidly if not handled properly. Texas is the major source of new cabbage supplies at present while old cabbage is coming from storage warehouses in the northern States.

(OVER)

Latest check on stocks of canned vegetables indicates that total supplies are considerably larger than a year ago. Sharp increases over January 1, 1938 are reported for canned string beans, peas, and corn, and a slight increase for canned tomatoes.

More better grade beef and pork and less lamb and lower grade beef still remains the outlook for meat supplies during the first half of 1939 in comparison with a year earlier. Better grade beef supplies, furthermore, are expected to increase more than usual each month during the first half of the year, with a larger than usual proportion of the season's total coming to market after March. Increase over 1938 in better grade beef supplies, however, probably will be more than offset by the reduction in lower grade beef supplies so that the outlook is for less beef of all grades.

Fruit situation showed practically no change during the latter part of January. Supplies of oranges, and grapefruit remain well above their 1938 level. Apple and canned fruit supplies continue less plentiful than at this time last year. Strawberry season is just getting underway, and relatively large supplies are not expected until March.

Tomato supplies in February, as in January, come principally from Cuba. While Florida also markets tomatoes at this time of the year, shipments from this State usually are not heavy until March, April, and May. Up until May, Florida is the major domestic source of tomatoes. Severe rainstorms often damage the Florida crop. Consequently even though the trend in tomato prices is downward during the first half of the year prices sometimes advance temporarily in February or March when the weather is unfavorable. Most of the tomatoes now marketed are picked when green but still mature enough to ripen properly after arriving at their destination.

CONSUMERS MARKET SERVICE

Issued by Consumers' Counsel Division

Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C.

422Cm
Volume III, No. 6

FEB 25 1939

February 15, 1939.

U. S. Department of Agriculture

New potato supplies up until May probably will continue smaller than a year ago. Unless the output of potatoes per acre in the States producing in May and June is above last year's high level, the prospect is for supplies smaller than in 1938 also during these two months. Current new potato supplies are coming from Florida, but Texas is expected to start shipping the latter half of the month. New potatoes usually cost more than old potatoes during the early part of the year. But their price trend is downward whereas the trend in old potato prices is upward.

Lettuce producers in Imperial Valley, the major source of current supplies, are reported to have plowed up a third of the acreage planted for February harvest. A reduction in acreage as large as that reported would result in supplies considerably smaller than a year ago.

Florida tomato shipments are increasing seasonally, but supplies in February and March probably will be much smaller than a year ago. Tomato shipments from Cuba, however, are expected to decline seasonally after the end of the month when the special reduction on duty granted Cuba annually at this time of the year ends. During the latter part of February and March, Florida is the major source of tomato supplies.

First shipments of California asparagus have moved to market but supplies are expected to remain relatively small until next month. Heaviest movement of California asparagus generally comes in April, and the season ends in May. Earliest shipments move by express, and prices are relatively high.

Eggplant shipments generally increase seasonally in February and March. Cuba is the major source of supply during these two months. The exact extent of the change in production from 1938 is not available.

Green pepper supplies in February and March may be smaller than a year ago. Production in Florida, which is the major source of supply at this time of the year, is expected to be much smaller than in 1938. This decrease, however, may be offset by increased imports from Cuba.

(over)

Strawberry supplies this year probably will be much more plentiful than in 1938 if yields per acre are at least at average levels. Increase in supply over last year is expected principally in the States marketing berries after March. Florida is the major source of strawberries in February and March and the outlook still is for supplies larger than a year ago from this area.

Texas orange producers will be permitted to ship fruit up until June 15 this year. Ordinarily the season on Texas oranges and grapefruit closes on April 30 because of the Mexican fruit-fly quarantine regulation. No extension is in prospect for the Texas grapefruit season. Orange and grapefruit shipments from California are not affected by the fruit-fly quarantine regulation.

Orange and grapefruit prices continue at relatively low levels, with supplies from all areas larger than a year ago. Citrus prices ordinarily are lowest in the winter months.

Cold storage stocks of apples, the major source of supply until the new crop matures this summer, are about a fifth smaller than last year.

Tangerine season is drawing rapidly to a close. Shipments have been decreasing seasonally since they hit their peak in early January. Tangerine season generally ends in March.

Supplies of green peas in February and March probably will be smaller than in 1938. A decrease in production in Florida and Texas is expected to offset larger California supplies. Bulk of the Florida and Texas crops already has moved to market.

More spinach than a year ago is in prospect for this month and March. Texas is the major source of supply at present. Shipments generally increase until they reach their peak in June.

CONSUMERS MARKET SERVICE

Issued by Consumers' Counsel Division

Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C.

Volume III, No. 7

MAR 11 1939

March 1, 1939

U. S. Department of Agriculture

February's windstorms are reported to have done considerable damage to California oranges and lemons. Information on the exact extent of the damage will not be available until the regular government crop report is issued on March 10. Last crop report issued prior to the windstorm indicated record size orange crops for Florida and Texas as well as California. Unless the damage was unusually severe, there appears to be little danger of below average orange supplies this year. Price-boosting effect of a reduction in California orange supplies would be felt mainly from June through September when California is the major source of orange supplies.

March signals the opening of the asparagus season. Broccoli and artichokes usually are more plentiful in March than in any other month. Estimates as to 1939 supplies of these vegetables compared to 1938 are not available at present.

Tips for buyers of asparagus, artichokes, and broccoli: Best asparagus has brittle stalks which are easily punctured, and close compact tips. Freshness is important because "grass" ages rapidly after it is cut, and becomes tough. Most desirable artichokes are compact and heavy, yield slightly to pressure, and have tightly clinging scales of a good green color. Top quality broccoli has tender and firm stalks, compact buds in the clusters, and is a dark or purplish green depending on the variety. If the bud clusters are open and show yellow or purple blossoms the plant generally is over-mature, and tough.

Food costs as a group usually decline in March. Price trends for major foods during this month are: Up: sweet potatoes, old potatoes, onions, apples, oranges, grapefruit, poultry, pork, and lower grade beef. Down: eggs, butter, cheese, better grade beef, new potatoes, and most green vegetables.

Louisiana strawberries are not expected to start moving to market until late this month because of freeze damage. Prior to the freeze shipments were expected early in the month. The freeze damaged merely berries, and not the plants. Louisiana is the largest individual strawberry producing State and ships its berries from March through May.

(OVER)

Pineapple shipments from Puerto Rico usually increase sharply in March and are heavy through May.

Fresh pork supplies this month probably will be smaller than in February and also smaller than at this time last year. The decrease in slaughter from a year ago is due mainly to early marketings of spring pigs. During March supplies generally decrease seasonally as the last part of the spring pig crop moves to market. Total pork supplies in 1939 still are expected to be larger than last year.

Butter production is expected to increase seasonally and to remain larger than a year ago during March. Butter purchases by the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation have tended to keep wholesale prices relatively stable this year. Ordinarily prices decline seasonally until they hit their low point in the summer.

Poultry and egg supply outlook remains unchanged from last month and more eggs and poultry than a year ago still are expected.

CONSUMERS MARKET SERVICE

Issued by Consumers' Counsel Division

Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D.C.

94
422cm
Volume III, No. 8

RECEIVED
★ MAR 25 1939 ★
U. S. Department of Agriculture

March 15, 1939.

Strawberries during April and May probably will be more plentiful than in the same 1938 months. A production increase of almost 25 percent over a year ago is in prospect in States shipping principally in these 2 months. Cold weather, particularly in Louisiana, has delayed the shipping season almost 3 weeks. Shipments from Louisiana, the major berry-producing State, are not expected to begin until the last week of this month.

Supplies of California Valencia oranges, which are practically the only oranges available after early July, are expected to be 10 percent smaller this year than last, even though they will be considerably above average. Prior to mid-February, when severe winds destroyed 3 million boxes of California Valencias, a crop slightly larger than in 1938 was in prospect. The California Valencia season has just started but orange supplies during March and April still consist mainly of Florida oranges and California Navels. While California Navels also were damaged by the winds the crop is indicated to be only slightly under the level of a year ago. A record crop still is in prospect for Florida. Shipments of Navels generally end in May, while the Florida season finishes up in early July.

California lemons also were damaged by the February wind, but the damage was slight, amounting to only 5 percent of the crop. The current lemon crop now is expected to be almost 15 percent larger than last year and the second largest on record.

Lamb supplies from April through June probably will be considerably smaller than last year. Marketings of both spring lambs--milk-fed young lambs from 3 to 5 months old--and grass-fed lambs are expected to be below their 1938 level during this period.

Butter production has continued at record levels since a year ago and is expected to continue large. Heavy milk production during recent months has been primarily responsible for the large butter supplies. Butter prices usually decline during the first half of the year. On March 8, 1939, the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation announced that it had suspended for the time being its purchases of butter on the open market. During the 2 days following the announcement wholesale butter prices dropped 3 cents a pound, the first marked price drop since January.

(OVER)

Asparagus season has been late in getting under way because of unfavorable weather. Seasonal increases in shipments from California, the major source of early asparagus, however, are expected during the latter half of this month. No official estimate of California production is available, but smaller crops than in 1938 are expected in Georgia and South Carolina.

Source of lettuce supplies shifts from California to Arizona during the latter part of March and early April. When shipments from Arizona fail to increase at a rate fast enough to offset the decreases from California, temporary sharp price increases often occur during the early part of this period.

Acreage planted to green peas for canning probably will be much smaller than a year ago. However, if average yields are obtained in this reduced acreage, total supply of canned peas during the 1939-40 marketing season probably will be second only to the record large supply of the current season due to large stocks of canned peas.

Production of spinach for canning is expected to be much larger than last season, but still below average.

CONSUMERS' MARKET SERVICE

Issued by Consumers' Counsel Division
Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C.

422cm
Volume III, Number 9.

☆ APR 15 1939
U. S. Department of Agriculture

April 1, 1939.

Heaviest monthly egg production, largest monthly shipments of asparagus and artichokes, and opening of the new or Bermuda onion season generally come in April. During April spring lamb and supplies of most green vegetables, new potatoes, strawberries, better grade beef, fresh pork, butter, and cheese also ordinarily increase seasonally, whereas supplies of grapefruit, oranges, poultry, old potatoes, old onions, lower grade beef, apples, and sweetpotatoes decrease.

Substantial increase in marketings of strawberries is expected this month. Movement of the crop from Louisiana, the largest single source of supplies in April, has been held back several weeks by unfavorable weather. Louisiana shipments up to the end of March were slightly less than one-tenth as large as in 1938. Outlook still is for production larger than last April. The lateness of the season in the early producing States, however, may result in an overlapping in shipments from several States and this may keep some of the harvest from moving to market.

Tips for strawberry buyers: Best berries are solid red in color, have a fresh, clean and bright appearance, and are free from dirt, moisture, and trash. The caps should be attached to the berries because those without caps often are overmature or have been handled roughly. Decayed berries are not desirable because of the waste involved. They can be detected easily through the presence of mold on the surface of the berries, although mold often may be found elsewhere. Presence of leaky or damaged strawberries is indicated many times by a stained container. Careful buyers always examine berries at the bottom of the container. While large strawberries may be preferred for dessert purposes, size is a poor guide to flavor, which depends on the variety of the berry.

Asparagus shipments likewise have been held back by unfavorable weather, but a marked seasonal increase in supplies is in prospect for April. During May and June eastern supplies come from producing areas located close to the cities, whereas April supplies come mainly from California. Since 'grass grown in California is used both for canning and fresh shipment, depending upon price levels, it is not possible to indicate at present supplies available for fresh shipment.

(over)

Old potato season is drawing to a close and by the middle of next month new potatoes probably will comprise the bulk of marketings. Supplies of both old and new potatoes during April are expected to be smaller than a year ago. April supplies of new potatoes come principally from Texas and Florida. Prices of new potatoes usually decline seasonally in April whereas the trend in old potato prices is upward.

Grapefruit shipments usually start to decline at this period of the year. This downward trend continues through July and August when supplies are at their seasonal low point. Up until this year Texas had to stop shipping grapefruit at the end of April because of the fruit fly quarantine. This year Texas may ship grapefruit up until mid-June. Outlook is for grapefruit supplies from all areas to continue larger than in 1938 during the second quarter of 1939.

Florida continues as an important source of fresh vegetable supplies in April. During this month it is the leading shipper of tomatoes, green lima beans, green peppers, cucumbers, and eggplant.

Spring lamb season is expected to get underway this month and supplies are expected to increase seasonally during the next few months. Marketings prior to July 1, however, are expected to be much smaller than last year. Supplies of other lambs during this period also probably will be smaller than in 1938.

Pork and better grade beef supplies during April still are expected to increase more than they usually do at this time of the year. Furthermore, pork and better grade beef are expected to be more plentiful than in 1938, whereas smaller supplies of lower grade beef are in the offing. Total beef supplies probably will be smaller than in 1938.

Little change has occurred in the outlook for supplies of poultry, eggs, and dairy products. Supplies of each of these products still are expected to be larger than in April 1938.

CONSUMERS MARKET SERVICE

Issued by Consumers' Counsel Division

Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C.

4220 m
Volume III, Number 10.

★ APR 29 1939 ★
U. S. Department of Agriculture

April 15, 1939.

Outstanding development in the food supply situation during the first half of the month was the period of extremely cold weather which apparently damaged some fruit crops. It is too early to determine the exact effect of the freeze on production and the opening date of the fruit season.

Plentiful supplies of strawberries are in prospect from States shipping mainly in April and May. Shipments from Louisiana, the largest berry-producing State, increased sharply in early April, but are still considerably smaller than last year despite a larger crop.

Spring vegetable supplies are turning out to be smaller than a year ago, but in practically all cases supplies are expected to be above average levels. Generally, at this time of the year, vegetable supplies increase each month until they hit their peak in the summer. Changes in supply from 1938 in prospect are as follows: marked decrease - lima beans, snap beans, beets, cabbage, celery and Bermuda onions; slight decrease - carrots and spinach; marked increase - lettuce and green peas.

Asparagus shipments have increased sharply in recent weeks. Shipments from California, the major source of supplies at this time of the year, are expected to be at or close to their peak this month.

Artichoke shipments from California, the sole source of domestic supplies, appear to have reached their peak and are expected to decline seasonally. Season for 'chokes generally ends in May.

New potato production in States shipping mainly in April and May is expected to be considerably (30 percent) smaller than last year's average size crop. Supplies of new potatoes generally increase

(OVER)

monthly during the first half of the year until they hit their peak in July. Old potatoes, however, comprise the major source of potato supplies until May. Current stocks of old potatoes are also smaller than last year.

Seasonal increase in supplies of fresh killed young chickens is in prospect during the next few months. First chickens marketed from the season's hatch usually are broilers, birds weighing under 2 1/2 pounds apiece. They start moving to market in late April or May. Fryers are the next class of chickens to reach markets, generally in June. They weigh 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 pounds. Chickens retained for marketing until they are over 3 1/2 pounds are classified as roasters. Roaster season ordinarily commences in August. Because of an expected large hatch this year, supplies of all classes of poultry probably will be more plentiful than in 1938.

Meat situation showed little change during first half of April. Seasonal upswing in supplies of better grade beef, spring lamb and hogs appears to be underway. Lamb and lower grade beef are the only meats expected to be in smaller supply than a year ago.

First watermelons and cantaloupes of the season are expected in early May. Melon season generally runs through September with shipments heaviest in July and August.

CONSUMERS' MARKET SERVICE

Issued by Consumers' Counsel Division

Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C.

Vol. III, No. 11.

MAY 13 1939

May 1, 1939.

May usually marks the opening of the season for cantaloups, watermelons, cherries, peaches, and green corn. Texas Bermuda onions ordinarily are more plentiful than in any other month and shipments of rhubarb and strawberries usually are at or close to their monthly peak for the year. Supplies of lettuce and tomatoes generally increase sharply and new potatoes replace old potatoes as the major source of potato supplies.

Seasonal increases in supplies of fresh pork, spring lamb, better grade beef, butter, chickens (particularly broilers), and most green vegetables also generally occur in May. However, supplies of eggs, lower grade beef, sweetpotatoes, and grapefruit ordinarily are below their April level.

Outlook for supplies of dairy and poultry products and meats in May compared to a year ago is quite similar to the situation in April. Supplies of better grade beef, fresh pork, eggs, poultry, and butter again are expected to be above their 1938 level. Lamb and lower grade beef probably will be below their 1938 level.

Strawberry supplies from States shipping mainly in May are expected to be considerably larger than during last May, as well as above their April level. During May, North Carolina, Arkansas, and Tennessee are the most important sources of supply.

Bermuda onions, which generally move to market from March through June, are a mild flavored variety of onion. They usually are either white or yellow, and the most popular sizes are 2-1/2 to 2-3/4 inches in diameter. Shape, moisture content, and appearance are the best guides of quality. Top quality onions have dry skins, a bright general appearance and are hard and well shaped. Odd shaped onions are not desirable because of waste in preparation.

Fresh peach supplies come principally from the Southern States. Georgia is the leading fresh peach-producing State and is almost the sole source of supply up until July. Peaches produced in California are used mainly for canning and drying.

(OVER)

Watermelon supplies in May come principally from Florida, whereas California is practically the sole source of cantaloups. No official estimates are available as yet as to the size of this year's melon crops. Melon shipments usually increase monthly until they reach their high point in July or August.

Lettuce and tomato supplies usually are most plentiful in the three-month period, May through July. Outlook during May is for larger supplies of lettuce, but smaller supplies of tomatoes than last year.

Spring cucumber and eggplant supplies are expected to be considerably smaller than last year and below average.

Texas grapefruit will not be available after May 15 because of fruit fly quarantine regulations. Supplies from California and Florida, however, still will be available. Under the regulations, all Texas grapefruit shipped in May must be sterilized by a process which does not impair quality or durability.

Canned corn and snap bean supplies for the 1939-40 season (which begins August 1) may not differ materially from last year despite a marked reduction in prospect in the production of sweet corn and snap beans, for canning. Large carryovers in both of these canned items at the end of the present marketing season are expected to offset a good part of the decrease in the 1939 pack.

Buyers interested in finding out how to judge fresh fruits and vegetables will find Miscellaneous Publication 167 of the Department of Agriculture; "A Fruit and Vegetable Buying Guide for Consumers," very helpful. This 61-page publication can be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., for 5 cents.

CONSUMERS MARKET SERVICE

Issued by Consumers' Counsel Division

Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C.

1.94
Ad 422 Com
Volume III, Number 12

RECEIVED
MAY 27 1939 ★
U. S. Department of Agriculture

May 15, 1939

Fair to good fruit crops are expected this spring and summer. Cherry prospects appear good in all important producing States except Idaho and Utah. Good crops of table, raisin, and wine grapes in California, and of pears in California and the Pacific Northwest also are expected. Estimates of the size of these crops are not available as yet. Cherries are now being marketed in small quantities. First table grapes are expected in early June, and pear season usually opens in July.

Peach production in the 10 southern States, where the earliest and most of the table varieties of peaches come from, is expected to be slightly larger than a year ago and above average. Production in Georgia, the largest table peach-producing State, however, most likely will be smaller than in 1938, and below average. First shipments of southern peaches are expected the latter part of this month.

Spring and early summer vegetable supplies (excluding local truck garden production) probably will be about average this year. In the Central and Eastern States a number of crops have had a late start. In the Western States crops are well advanced but are much in need of rain in some areas. Source of vegetable supplies now is shifting to areas located close to consuming centers.

Asparagus supplies from now through July are expected to be about the same as last year, but considerably above average. However, production in New Jersey, which is the most important single source of supply in this period, probably will be much smaller than in 1938.

Early melon supplies this year probably will be only slightly smaller than in 1938, but below average. Earliest cantaloupes come principally from Imperial Valley, California, while Florida is the major source of early watermelon supplies. Cantaloup shipments from Imperial Valley are not expected to be heavy until June. A gradual increase in Florida watermelon shipments is in prospect for the remainder of May.

Smaller supplies of green peppers than in 1938 are expected in both May and June. Supplies during this period come principally from Florida.

(over)

Strawberry supplies in States shipping in May and June likewise are expected to be larger than in 1938. The number of States shipping strawberries is increasing rapidly. Start of the berry season in most of these new areas is expected to be a little later than usual due to cool weather which has delayed harvesting.

Egg production during the remainder of 1939 is expected to continue above its 1938 level mainly due to a larger number of laying hens. On May 1, egg production was about 5 percent larger than a year earlier and slightly below its April level. Usually egg production starts falling off at this time of the year and reaches its low point in November or December.

Milk production continues at record high levels for this period of the year and it appears that production this summer probably will be above its 1938 level. Production of milk per person on May 1 was only one percent short of the high record for this month set in 1931. As a rule milk production increases seasonally during the first half of the year, reaches its peak in June, and then trends downward during the last half of the year. Prices of dairy products generally are at their low point in June and July.

New potato marketings are expected to increase seasonally during the last half of May, but they probably will continue smaller than in 1938. Season for old potatoes is practically over, and marketings are decreasing.

Outlook for meat supplies during the last half of May is practically the same as for the first half. A seasonal increase in supplies of pork, better grade beef, chickens and lamb is in prospect. Compared with last year larger supplies of better grade beef, poultry, and pork, and smaller supplies of lower grade beef and lamb are expected.

CONSUMERS' MARKET SERVICE

Issued by Consumers' Counsel Division

Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C.

Volume III, No. 13

RECEIVED
★ JUN 10 1939
U. S. Department of Agriculture

June 1, 1939

June marks the opening of the season for apricots, new apples, honeyball and honeydew melons, blueberries, blackberries, figs, grapes, and gooseberries. During this month shipments of cucumbers, cherries, blackberries, apricots, California cantaloups, and Florida watermelons generally are heavier than during any other month of the year.

Supplies of most foods during June are expected to be larger than in May, but some foods probably will be less plentiful than a year ago. Compared with last June increases in supply are expected for pork, poultry, dairy products, and eggs. Decreases are in prospect for lamb, beef, and melons. Vegetable supplies during June come partly from local truck gardens, and because of lack of production statistics for these areas it is not possible to determine the total available supply.

Strawberry shipments usually decline seasonally after the first week in June but supplies of other berries increase seasonally. Season for blueberries and huckleberries runs from June through September with supplies ordinarily most plentiful in August. Blackberry season starts in June and ends in August with heaviest supplies usually coming in June. Season for raspberries ordinarily covers June and July with supplies largest during the latter month. Quality in berries is indicated usually by a bright, clean, fresh appearance combined with a solid full-color and plumpness of individual berries. Berries, other than strawberries, with caps attached may be immature because caps adhere firmly to immature fruits.

Apricot season is very short, beginning in June and ending in July or August. Peak shipments generally come in July. Apricots customarily are picked when slightly immature so that they can be marketed in good condition. Well-matured apricots are fairly firm and have a uniformly golden-yellowish color whereas immature 'cots are greenish-yellow in color and are more or less shriveled before they get to market. Apricots are very perishable and consumers should avoid bruised fruits unless they are used immediately.

Melon supplies generally increase sharply during June with cantaloups, watermelons, honeydew and honeyball melons generally available during the month. Honeydew melons resemble honeyball melons but are somewhat larger in size. Ripe honeydews have a creamy yellow rind and the area around the small scar or button at the blossom end yields to slight pressure. Ripe honeyballs have a light yellowish rind and yield slightly to pressure. Both melons keep well and can be bought and held for several days until

(OVER)

ripe enough to eat. Honeyball season runs until September with heaviest shipments usually in July. Season for honeydews is a little bit longer, running through December with heaviest shipments in August.

Cherry season generally is over by August. There are two main groups of cherries, sweet cherries for table consumption and sour cherries which are used primarily for sauce and pie making. Immature cherries of both types are usually smaller than the average ripe cherries found in the container, are hard, and of poor color. Overmature cherries are generally soft and have a dull appearance.

Better grade beef supplies during June are expected to be larger than a year ago but the outlook is for smaller supplies of all grades of beef. Supplies of beef during the first five months of this year have been smaller than in 1938 primarily because farmers are holding back part of their cattle for restocking herds. The decrease in supplies of lower grade cattle has more than offset increased slaughter of better grade.

June is the last month in which asparagus shipments are heavy, for the season usually winds up in July. Current supplies are coming mainly from New Jersey. Total supplies in the areas producing for shipment during the current month are expected to be about the same as last year but a marked decrease is in prospect for New Jersey.

Season for summer or Valencia oranges from California is now under way. From June through October California furnishes the bulk of orange supplies. The current crop of California Valencias is expected to be about 15 percent smaller than a year ago but well above average. A relatively large proportion of the total crop is expected to be in small sizes.

Grapefruit season is drawing rapidly to a close. Shipments from Texas have ceased because of quarantine regulations. Florida shipments are decreasing seasonally. July and August are the two months when supplies are at the lowest level of the year.

Supplies of lettuce and tomatoes generally are more plentiful in June and July than in other months of the year. Lettuce supplies this year will probably be more plentiful than a year ago, but smaller supplies of tomatoes are in prospect.

"SURPLUS AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES"

Eight foods have been starred by Secretary Wallace as "surplus agricultural commodities" at the present time. Especially abundant supplies of these foods make them good buys for all consumers:

BUTTER, EGGS, DRY EDIBLE BEANS, DRIED PRUNES, ORANGES,
FRESH GRAPEFRUIT, WHEAT AND GRAHAM FLOUR, CORN MEAL

Other foods may be regionally or seasonally abundant in your community. This list is not intended to be exhaustive for all localities.

CONSUMERS MARKET SERVICE

Issued by Consumers' Counsel Division
Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C.

VOLUME III, NUMBER 14

JUN 23 1939 ☆

June 15, 1939.

Recent weather conditions have altered the prospective food supply situation somewhat. It now appears that supplies of some foods in the 1939-1940 season beginning in July may be smaller than a year ago. No food shortage is in prospect despite prospects for curtailed production of some crops.

Effects of lack of rainfall have been felt in areas producing spring and summer vegetables where supplies of a number of important crops are expected to be below their 1938 level. Poor growing conditions and reduced acreage have resulted in prospects for a smaller wheat crop than in 1938 but part of this decrease will be offset by large supplies carried over from last year's crop. Because of poor range and pasture conditions coupled with prospects of smaller feed crops than in 1938, some farmers are sending to market cattle that ordinarily would have been retained for marketing later in the season, or for breeding purposes. The tendency to hold cattle for restocking herds was one of the major factors responsible for supplies smaller than in 1938 during the first third of 1939.

Fruit crops do not appear to have been affected so much by unfavorable weather conditions and good crops are expected this year. Increases over 1938 are in prospect for apples, peaches, cherries, apricots, and plums, but decreases are expected in pears, grapes, dried prunes, and oranges. Supplies of early peaches from the Southern States, those marketed in June and July, probably won't differ much from last year. But a marked increase over 1938 is in prospect for the later maturing varieties. Large production is in prospect in California where most of the crop is used for canning and drying. The current apricot and cherry crops are the largest on record. Most of the increase in cherry supplies over 1938 is expected in areas producing principally red sour cherries. By the end of the month practically all of the above fruits will be moving to market in carload lots.

Seasonal decline in butter prices is over and some rise in prices has occurred already. Dry weather is tending to curtail production, but unless the drought becomes more severe, butter production this summer may be nearly as large as the 1938 high level. In view of larger storage holdings, total butter supplies may be larger than last summer. Trend in butter production usually is downward during the last half of the year, June being the peak production month.

(OVER)

Increase in poultry supplies over last year may not be as large as expected earlier this year in view of recent reductions in hatchings. Failure of poultry and egg prices to keep step with rising feed prices has resulted in a curtailment of hatchings. Generally poultry supplies increase seasonally during the last half of the year. Marketings of broilers and dryers usually are at their seasonal high point in the summer.

Outlook for egg supplies still is for larger supplies than in 1938, and for monthly seasonal decreases in supplies during most of the remainder of 1939. Because of the current relatively low level of egg price the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation began to purchase eggs in May for distribution to people on relief.

Major change in the meat supply outlook in recent weeks was a slight acceleration in marketings of cattle caused by poor pasture and range conditions. Ordinarily in June and July supplies of lamb and better grade beef increase seasonally while pork supplies decrease seasonally. This year the increase in better grade beef probably will be larger than usual whereas a smaller than usual decline in hog marketings may occur. The lamb situation is a little uncertain, but it appears that after June marketings may increase more than usual in view of a later than usual marketing season for early lambs. Compared with a year ago larger supplies of better grade beef and pork but smaller supplies of lamb still are expected in June and July. If drought conditions should become severe, marketings during the next few months might be somewhat larger than otherwise.

Supplies of new potatoes, which comprise the bulk of marketings at present, are expected to be smaller than last June and July. In California, however, supplies during these months probably will be larger than in 1938 because of a large crop. At this time of the year new potato supplies generally increase seasonally and old potato marketings drop to their lowest level for the year.

"SURPLUS AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES"

Eight foods have been starred by Secretary Wallace as "surplus agricultural commodities" at the present time. Especially abundant supplies of these foods make them good buys for all consumers:

BUTTER, EGGS, DRY BEANS, DRIED PRUNES, ORANGES,
FRESH GRAPEFRUIT, WHEAT AND GRAHAM FLOUR, CORN MEAL

Other foods may be regionally or seasonally abundant in your community. This list is not intended to be exhaustive for all localities.

CONSUMERS MARKET SERVICE

Issued by Consumers' Counsel Division

Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C.

Volume III, No. 15

U. S. Department of Agriculture

July 7, 1939

Fruit and melon season swings fully underway in July when supplies of peaches, watermelons, apricots, honeydew and honeyball melons ordinarily are at their season's peak. During this month seasonal increases in supply also occur in cantaloups, apples, grapes, pears, and plums as well as in green corn, potatoes, poultry, lamb, and better grade beef. Supplies of eggs, pork, oranges, and cherries, however, ordinarily are below their June level, and final strawberry shipments of the season generally trickle into markets.

Melons probably will be less plentiful than last summer. Production of both cantaloups and watermelons is expected to be below 1938 and average production levels, but the decrease in supplies from a year ago probably will be larger in watermelons than in cantaloups. This is due primarily to a very sharp decrease in watermelon production in Georgia, the principal source of supply in the summer months. General trend in melon prices is downward at this time of the year.

Fruit marketings this summer, however, probably will be bigger than last year. Increases over 1938 are in prospect for apples, peaches, lemons, plums, apricots, and cherries. But smaller crops are expected in grapes, pears, and summer oranges. Increase over 1938 in peach supplies is mainly in the late maturing varieties which ordinarily move to market after mid-July. Production of the earlier varieties, which are now moving to market, is smaller than last year. Fruit supplies usually increase during the summer months with heaviest shipments of pears and plums coming in September and of apples and grapes in October.

Canned vegetables probably won't be as plentiful from August 1, 1939 to July 31, 1940 as they were in the 1938-1939 season when record supplies of peas, corn, and string beans were available. Official production reports are available at present only for peas for canning, but smaller crops are expected in practically all canning vegetables in view of sharp reductions in acreage. Despite a prospective 40 percent reduction from 1938 in the size of the pea pack, total supplies may not be more than 20 percent below their 1938 level due to a record carry-over from the season now ending. If canned pea supplies are as large as indicated at present, they would be above the supply levels of most recent seasons except 1937-1938, and 1938-1939.

Outlook for meat supplies this summer has changed but little in the past 2 weeks. Increases over 1938 levels still are expected in better grade beef and pork, and a decrease in lamb, and lower grade beef. Due to a prospective large 1939 pig crop, it appears that pork supplies during the entire year will be above their 1938 level.

(OVER)

Poultry and egg situation likewise has changed but little in recent weeks. Larger supplies of eggs and poultry than during 1938 are expected during the remainder of the year. The increase in poultry supplies may not be as large as indicated earlier this year because of a curtailment of hatchings.

Potato supplies during July and August probably will be smaller than a year ago. A 15 percent decrease in production is in prospect in States producing the bulk of market supplies in these months.

"SURPLUS AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES"

Eight foods have been starred by Secretary Wallace as "surplus agricultural commodities" at the present time. Especially abundant supplies of these foods make them good buys for all consumers:

BUTTER, EGGS, DRY BEANS, DRIED PRUNES, ORANGES,
FRESH GRAPEFRUIT, WHEAT AND GRAHAM FLOUR, CORN MEAL

Other foods may be regionally or seasonally abundant in your community. This list is not intended to be exhaustive for all localities.

CONSUMERS' MARKET SERVICE

Issued by Consumers' Counsel Division

Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C.

422C-11
Volume III, No. 16

RECEIVED
★ JUL 22 1939 ★
U. S. Department of Agriculture

July 15, 1939.

The fruit supply situation showed but little change during recent weeks and outlook still is for above average supplies. Compared with 1938, larger crops of apricots, cherries, peaches, plums and fresh prunes and apples and smaller crops of summer oranges, pears, and grapes are expected.

Estimates of vegetable supplies at this time of the year are difficult to make in view of the importance of local truck gardens as a source of supply. The Department has records only for commercial producing areas which do not include these local truck gardens. In the commercial vegetable producing areas, compared with last July, smaller crops of snap beans, beets, cabbage, carrots, eggplant, lettuce, onions, and spinach, and larger supplies of lima beans, celery, cucumbers, green peas, and green peppers are expected. Very little change is in prospect for tomatoes.

Potato supplies this summer most likely will be much smaller than in 1938, but a slight increase over 1938 levels is expected in the fall and winter months when the late potato crop moves to market. Some of the late or old potatoes are now moving to market, but the bulk of shipments will not begin until September.

Sweetpotato production in 1939 is expected to be slightly larger than last year, and the third largest crop on record. A seasonal upswing in sweetpotato supplies generally gets underway in July, with heaviest marketings ordinarily coming in October. Top quality sweetpotatoes are smooth, well shaped, firm, and have a bright appearance. Most common defects found are decay (which generally gives sweetpotatoes a disagreeable flavor even if removed), misshape, and growth cracks. The latter two defects ordinarily do not affect quality and are undesirable only from the viewpoint of waste in preparation.

Meat supplies in general during the last half of 1939 may be bigger than last year. A marked increase over 1938 levels is expected in pork. Lamb supplies probably will be about the same. Beef supplies, however, most likely will be smaller than in 1938 with decreases in lower grade beef marketings more than offsetting increases in better grade beef. During the latter half of July and August supplies of lamb and lower and better grade beef ordinarily increase seasonally whereas pork marketings decline.

Marked increase in turkey supplies is in prospect for 1939. Season for fresh dressed turkeys has been lengthened in recent years by means of earlier hatchings and improved feeding methods. As a result, fresh dressed turkeys now ordinarily are available in small volume in the summer months. Heavy marketings of turkeys usually don't commence until September.

Butter production this summer probably will continue relatively large compared with recent years, and may not differ much from last year's record high level. Ordinarily production of butter declines seasonally during the last half of the year.

A record crop of almonds, and close to record size production of walnuts are expected this year. The increase in production over 1938 amounts to about 33 percent in almonds, and 20 percent in walnuts.

"SURPLUS AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES"

Two foods have been dropped and six foods have been added to the list designated by Secretary Wallace as "surplus agricultural commodities." Abundant supplies make these "surplus" foods good buys for all consumers:

BUTTER, EGGS, DRY BEANS, DRIED PRUNES, RICE, CORNMEAL,
WHEAT AND GRAHAM FLOUR, FRESH TOMATOES, FRESH GREEN
PEAS, FRESH PEACHES, CABBAGE, AND ONIONS (EXCEPT GREEN
ONIONS)

CONSUMERS MARKET SERVICE

Issued by Consumers' Counsel Division

Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D.C.

4422Cm
VOLUME III, NO. 17

5 1939

U. S. Department of Agriculture

August 1, 1939.

Green corn and cantaloups occupy an important place in the market basket in August when supplies of these items ordinarily are more plentiful than in any other month. Other items that usually reach their seasonal supply peak in August are avocados, lima beans, figs, nectarines, huckleberries and blueberries. This year peaches also probably will be more plentiful than in July, when they ordinarily reach their peak, in view of a large late crop. While August generally marks the opening of the 3-month season for Persian melons, it also signals the end of the season for cherries, blackberries and raspberries.

Cantaloup supplies in August probably will be above their 1938 level due to increases reported in Indiana and Maryland, the two most important producing areas at this time of the year. Season for California cantaloups generally winds up in August. However, California continues to ship honeydew melons through December, and honeyball melons through September. Cantaloup season ordinarily ends in October, with September being the last month of heavy supplies.

Estimates of total green corn supplies are not available since a good part of the crop is grown in local market gardens. In New Jersey, one of the large commercial producing areas which ships from July through October, a crop much larger than in 1938 and above average is expected.

Seasonal increases in supplies of most fruits are expected during August. Shipments of apples, pears, plums, and grapes are on the upgrade. The upswing in peach shipments will probably continue through August this year. Marketings of California Valencia oranges appear to be at or close to their peak.

(OVER)

Pork supplies this fall and winter are expected to be much larger than a year ago, with the most marked increases over 1938 levels in prospect after October 1, when the new hog marketing year begins. Ordinarily at this time of the year hog supplies decrease seasonally through August or September. In view of the large prospective supplies for the coming marketing year, this seasonal low in supplies may come earlier than usual. During the marketing year October 1, 1939 through September 30, 1940, hog supplies are expected to return to the levels that prevailed prior to the recent drought years.

Beef and lamb supply outlook remained unchanged during the past two weeks. August supplies of both meats are still expected to be above their July level. During the remainder of 1939, total beef supplies may not differ much from their 1938 level with larger supplies of better grade beef offsetting smaller supplies of lower grade beef. Lamb supplies probably won't be larger, but may be smaller than in 1938.

Poultry and egg supplies are expected to continue above their 1938 level during the remainder of the year. Generally poultry supplies increase each month during the last half of the year but egg supplies decrease. Chickens, poultry under a year old, ordinarily are most plentiful during this 6-month period. Heaviest marketings of broilers come in July and August, of fryers from August to October, and of roasters during the last quarter of the year.

"SURPLUS AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES"

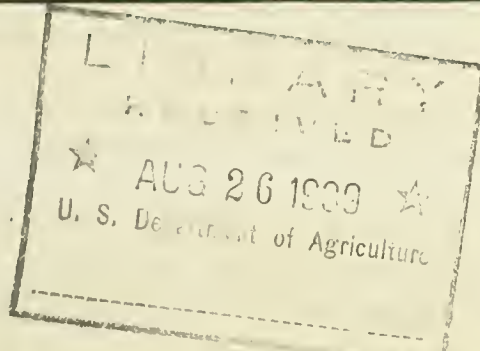
Pears have been added to the list designated by Secretary Wallace as "surplus agricultural commodities." The list of surplus foods, which are in abundant supply making them good buys for all consumers, now includes:

FRESH PEACHES, PEARS, EGGS, BUTTER, FRESH TOMATOES,
CABBAGE, ONIONS (EXCEPT GREEN ONIONS), RICE, CORNMEAL,
DRY BEANS, DRIED PRUNES, WHEAT FLOUR, GRAHAM FLOUR.

CONSUMERS MARKET SERVICE

Issued by Consumers' Counsel Division

Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C.



VOLUME III, No. 18

August 15, 1939.

Dry weather has hampered vegetable production, and it appears that supplies from the commercial producing areas in August will be below their 1938 level. No estimates are available for production in local truck gardens, which are an important source of supply at this time of the year. Compared with 1938 the outlook for commercial supplies is for marked reductions in snap beans, cauliflower, cabbage, cucumbers, and eggplant; slight reductions in beets, carrots, lettuce, green peppers, tomatoes and spinach; and increases in lima beans, celery, onions, sweet corn, cantaloupes, and watermelon.

Despite a marked decrease in production of vegetables for canning this year, total supplies for the 1939-40 season may not be more than 10 to 15 percent smaller than the record supplies of last season. A heavy carry-over from the 1938-39 season which just ended offsets part of the reduction in size of the current vegetable pack. Supplies of canned corn, snap beans, and peas are expected to be considerably below their high supply level of 1938, but well above the average amount consumed in recent years. A small reduction from a year ago is in prospect for canned tomatoes.

Potato supplies during the remainder of 1939 and the first quarter of 1940 are still expected to be slightly below their level of a year ago, and below average. Unfavorable growing conditions during July resulted in a slight reduction in production prospects. Shipments of potatoes from the late crop, which furnishes the bulk of annual potato requirements, already have started to move to market. Seasonal increases in marketing from the late crop are expected through October.

The late onion crop, source of onion supplies until the early crop matures next spring, is expected to be slightly larger than in 1938, and considerably above average. Onions from this crop usually are harvested by October or November. Part of the crop is placed in storage for marketing during the first quarter of the year.

(OVER)

Fruit crop prospects declined slightly during July, but total production of all fruits still is expected to be larger than in 1938. The first estimate of the size of the 1939 apple crop indicates that supplies probably will be about 25 percent larger than in 1938, and above average. Pear and grape production prospects remain slightly below the big crops produced in 1938, but the crops are larger than the average production level of recent years. Marketings of these three fruits are expected to increase seasonally in August. Heaviest pear shipments generally come in September, while apple and grape marketings are at their peak in October.

Plentiful supplies of all nuts are in prospect this year. Compared with a year ago the following production increases are expected; walnuts, 20 percent; pecans, 25 percent; almonds, 33 percent; filberts, 60 percent.

Outlook for supplies of dairy products, poultry and eggs has shown practically no change in the past two weeks. Production of dairy products still is expected to be smaller than the high level of a year ago, but larger than in other recent years. Increases over 1938 supplies still are in prospect for poultry and eggs. Marketings of eggs and other dairy products usually decrease each month during the last half of the year, whereas, poultry supplies increase until they reach their peak in December.

A seasonal increase in pork supplies is expected in the next three or four months as marketings of pigs born this spring get under way. Despite a larger pig crop than in 1938, the seasonal increase in supplies during this period may not differ much from 1938 because supplies already are well above their level of a year ago.

"SURPLUS AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES"

Lard and vegetable fat products normally used for cooking purposes and made principally from cottonseed oil will be added sometime this month to the list of foods designated by Secretary Wallace as "surplus agricultural commodities." The list of surplus foods, which are in abundant supply making them good buys for all consumers, on August 15 includes:

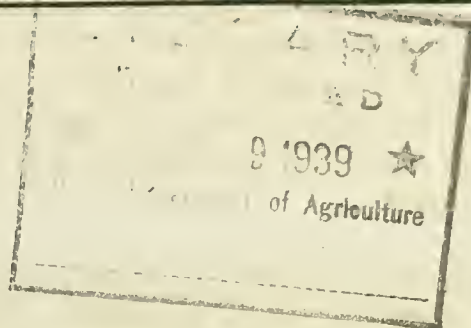
FRESH PEACHES, PEARS, EGGS, BUTTER, FRESH TOMATOES,
CABBAGE, ONIONS (EXCEPT GREEN ONIONS), RICE, CORNMEAL,
DRY BEANS, DRIED PRUNES, WHEAT FLOUR, GRAHAM FLOUR.

CONSUMERS' MARKET SERVICE

Issued by Consumers' Counsel Division

Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C.

Volume III, Number 19



September 1, 1939.

September marks a turning point in the vegetable growing season. Volume movement of supplies from the late producing States generally commences and gradually replaces truck shipments from local market gardens which are the major source of supplies in the summer. Supplies from local producing areas continue to trickle into markets until frosts check production.

Bulk of annual potato, onion, and cabbage requirements, a large proportion of annual celery supplies, and moderate amounts of other truck crops come from the late producing States. These States grow from 70 to 80 percent of the annual commercial onion and potato crops, about half of annual cabbage supplies and nearly 2/5 of yearly celery production. Crops ordinarily are harvested by the end of October but supplies are available to consumers until the new crops mature the following spring because part of the harvest is placed in cold or common storage. Seasonal low point in prices of these vegetables ordinarily is reached when the harvest is at its peak and prices then move upward as shipments are made from storage stocks.

While production of onions in the late producing States is expected to be larger than a year ago, crops below 1938 levels are in prospect for both cabbage and potatoes. A decrease of almost 50 percent from last year's record crop is expected in domestic type cabbage which comprises slightly more than half of the total late cabbage crop. However the 1939 domestic crop will still be about average size. Potato production not only looms smaller than a year ago, but also below average.

September generally is noted as the month in which supplies of pears, figs, fresh prunes and plums are more plentiful than in any other month of the year. During this month Brussels sprouts and cranberries start moving to market and increase through November. September also marks the close of the season for blueberries, raspberries, peaches, nectarines, and cantaloupes. Green corn shipments ordinarily drop sharply from their August peak but corn season does not end until October.

(OVER)

Pear production this year is expected to be slightly smaller than last year's record crop. Most pears consumed are produced in the Pacific Coast States. Ordinarily pears are picked when immature and are ripened in cool, dark rooms and markets. Often pears obtained in stores are not ready for immediate consumption and must be ripened at home. Color is not a complete test for maturity of pears since some varieties may be yellow but still immature while other varieties are in prime condition when green or green-yellow. Top quality pears are fairly firm but not hard, and are clean, not misshapen, and free from blemish.

Apple shipments ordinarily increase sharply in September but their peak movement is not reached until October. While the apple crop ordinarily is harvested by the end of October, apples are available all the year around because part of the crop is placed in storage. Supplies this year are expected to be considerably above their level of a year ago and also above average.

Outlook for poultry and egg supplies remains unchanged from mid-August and both seem likely to be much more plentiful than a year ago. Season for roasting chickens generally gets under way in September and marketings increase during the last third of the year. Roasters are poultry under a year old which weigh over 3-1/2 pounds. The usual trend in supplies of poultry is upward during the last half of the year whereas egg supplies decrease seasonally.

Milk production this fall is expected to continue relatively heavy. Pastures are in poor condition, but plentiful supplies of feed grains and feed are expected to keep production at close to record levels. Production of manufactured dairy products in the past few months has been below the record high of last year but otherwise has been larger than in recent years.

Largely due to heavy production of pork, meat supplies during the remainder of 1939 are expected to be above their 1938 level. In addition to the increase of pork supplies larger marketings of better grade cattle than in 1938 are expected. This increase in supplies over the previous year is expected to continue during the first half of 1940 also for both pork and beef. During September seasonal increases ordinarily occur in supplies of hogs, lamb, and beef.

"SURPLUS AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES"

No change was made during the past two weeks in the list of foods designated by Secretary Wallace as "surplus agricultural commodities," because they are in abundant supply making them good buys for all consumers. On September 1 the list included:

FRESH PEACHES, PEARS, EGGS, BUTTER, FRESH TOMATOES,
CABBAGE, ONIONS (EXCEPT GREEN ONIONS), RICE CORNMEAL,
DRY BEANS, DRIED PRUNES, WHEAT FLOUR, GRAHAM FLOUR.

CONSUMERS MARKET SERVICE

Issued by Consumers' Counsel Division
Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C.

Volume III, Number 20

September 15, 1939

Food supplies during the coming year appear adequate for ordinary needs and will be even larger than seemed probable a month ago, the latest crop report of the Department of Agriculture, issued on September 11, indicates.

Summaries as to supply prospects for each of the major foods which have been given in recent issues are repeated in this issue in order to clear up rumors that there will be a shortage of some foods this year because of war conditions.

These rumors appear to be based in part upon the view that a good part of our food supply will be exported. Just how much will be exported is quite uncertain at present. The general concensus of opinion, however, is that exports will not reduce supplies below domestic requirements in most recent years. Summaries as to the supply situation for each of the individual foods are given below:

Meats. Pork supplies during the remainder of 1939 and the first half of 1940 will be materially larger than last year and above the level of other recent years. Marked increases over 1938 also are expected in better grade beef while a reduction is in prospect for lower grade beef. These changes may just offset each other and total beef supplies may be about the same as a year ago. But, there is some prospect that total beef supplies may be bigger than they were a year ago. Little change from the levels of a year ago in lamb supplies appears probable during the remainder of this year and early 1940.

Poultry and Eggs. Outlook still is for increases in poultry and egg supplies above last year's level during the remainder of 1939 and the first half of next year.

Butter. Production during the remainder of the year probably won't equal the high level reached last year but probably will be close to the levels of other recent years.

Fresh Fruits. Total production is expected to be well above average. Orange and grapefruit supplies this winter and spring may not be as large as the record crops of the past year but ample supplies are in prospect. Larger crops of apples, late peaches, and cranberries than last year are expected. Pear and grape production probably will be slightly smaller than last year's record crops.

Dried Fruits. Total supply including dried prunes, raisins, apricots, apples and peaches probably will be well above average and larger than a year ago.

Fresh Vegetables. Supplies for fall and early winter needs may be below the heavy tonnage of a year ago but in most cases are expected to be above average. A record crop of late onions, better than average crop of late carrots but a smaller than usual amount of late cabbage is expected. Part of these late crops are placed in storage and thus are the major source of supply of these products up to the spring months.

Canned Vegetables. Supplies probably will be much smaller than they were last year because a reduction in production has more than offset the effect of a large carryover from the season just ended. Nevertheless, supplies will be large compared with most other recent years, since last year they were unusually large.

Sweetpotatoes. Production this year is expected to be the third largest on record and about 3 percent more than a year ago.

Potatoes. Production prospects in the late potato producing areas, which are the major source of supply until April, improved during August and the crop is now expected to be a little larger than a year ago, but still slightly below average.

Rice. Production is expected to be slightly smaller than last year's big crop.

Dried Beans. Supply is expected to be slightly less than last year's unusually high level.

Nuts. Marked increases are expected over last year in walnuts, almonds, filberts and pecans. The walnut and filbert crops probably will be the largest on record, and the almond crop equal to the record production of 1937, but the pecan crop is only average size.

Wheat. Supplies probably will be a tenth smaller than they were last year but otherwise will be the biggest we have had since 1932. Last year's supplies were considerably above the amounts needed for domestic requirements and exports and it appears that this situation will be repeated this year.

Sugar. Ample supplies above domestic requirements in recent years are in prospect. Due to the removal of the limitations placed on the amount of sugar that could be marketed annually in this country, by direction of the President on September 11, areas marketing sugar in the United States will be able to market more here than they have in any other recent year. Relatively large supplies of sugar are reported in all of the areas shipping into the United States.

CONSUMERS' MARKET SERVICE

Issued by Consumers' Counsel Division

Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D.C.

Volume III, Number 21

October 2, 1939.

Food supply prospects have changed but little since mid-September when summaries for individual foods were given in the Market Service. The outlook still is for supplies of most foods as large as or larger than in most recent years. Since mid-September, wholesale prices of a number of food items have gone down, whereas the trend during the first half of the month was upward.

October generally is noted as the month during which apples and grapes are most plentiful. During this month seasonal increases occur in supplies of potatoes, cabbage, onions, carrots, celery, brussels sprouts, poultry, cranberries, artichokes, sweetpotatoes, pork, and grapefruit. Season for cantaloupes and sweet corn draws to a close and seasonal decreases occur in marketings of pears, butter, and eggs. Usually the new citrus season opens in early September, but this year it probably will begin in October.

Apple production prospects have improved slightly since a month ago and a crop about 25 percent larger than a year ago and above average now is expected. Ordinarily part of the apple crop is exported. Due to unsettled conditions abroad it appears that exports may be smaller than last year. Grape production is not expected to be quite as big as the record crop of a year ago, but will be larger than in most other recent years.

While bartlett pear shipments ordinarily decrease during October, marketings of fall and winter varieties increase. Some of the fall and winter varieties are Bosc, Anjou, winter Melis, Comice, and Hardy pears. Pear crop prospects have declined slightly since a month ago but the crop is expected to be only slightly smaller than last year's big crop. Most pears are produced in the Pacific Coast States. As in the case of apples, some pears are exported. It now seems probable that because of unsettled conditions abroad, exports will be smaller than last season.

First grapefruit of the season from Florida, the largest single grapefruit producing state, moved to market in late September and seasonal increases in shipments are expected during the remainder of the year. Shipments from Texas probably will begin this month. No official estimate of production is available but on the basis of the present condition of the crop it appears that supplies will be slightly smaller than last year's record crop, larger than in most other recent years and may be the second largest on record. Under marketing agreements now in force only the better grades of grapefruit can be shipped since marketings of culls are prohibited.

(OVER)

Record turkey supplies are in prospect for this year, but it looks like a somewhat larger proportion of the crop will be marketed after Thanksgiving. The current turkey crop is expected to top the previous record crop of 1936 by about 15 percent and to be about a fifth larger than last year.

Considerably more cranberries than last year are expected. Production is estimated at about one-third more than the relatively small crop of 1938. Cranberry season runs from October to December or January, with marketings heaviest in November.

Pork and lard supplies during the hog marketing season which opens on October 1, are expected to be materially larger than in the season just ended. Usually hog marketings increase seasonally from October to January and are larger than any other period of the marketing year. Part of the meat obtained from the heavy slaughter during this period is placed in storage for use in months when slaughter is reduced seasonally.

Beef supplies in October probably will continue smaller than a year ago.

Lamb supplies during the fall months may continue to be smaller than they were a year ago. Starting in December, when the grain-fed lamb season commences, supplies probably will be larger than in 1938.

"SURPLUS AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES"

Four foods have been added and five dropped from the list of commodities designated as "surplus agricultural commodities" by the Secretary of Agriculture. On October 1, these surplus foods, which are in abundant supply were:

BUTTER, EGGS, RAISINS, PORK LARD, DRIED PRUNES, ONIONS (EXCEPT GREEN ONIONS), DRY BEANS, APPLES, FRESH PEARS, FRESH SNAP BEANS, WHEAT FLOUR, WHOLE WHEAT FLOUR, CORN MEAL.

CONSUMERS MARKET SERVICE

Issued by Consumers' Counsel Division

Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C.

26M
Volume III, Number 22

★ OCT 23 1939

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

October 16, 1939.

Latest report on 1939 crop prospects (which is based on conditions on October 1) indicates that total crop production will be slightly above the level of the 10-year period prior to the drought of 1934. In the food crops production of the principal grains--wheat, rye, rice, and buckwheat--is expected to be above average. A moderately small potato crop is expected to be offset by an unusually large sweetpotato crop. Large crops of dried beans, peanuts, sugar beets, sugarcane, walnuts, almonds, apples, pears, grapes, oranges, and grapefruit are in prospect. Total supplies of dried fruits probably will be above average; and the total pack of canned fruits is expected to be larger than in the season just ended. Supplies of fall vegetables for current consumption and for storage for use in the winter months appear adequate for usual needs.

Plentiful supplies of grapefruit and winter and spring varieties of oranges are in prospect for the 1939-40 citrus season which opened the beginning of October. The season has been a little slow in getting under way but marked increases in supplies are in prospect during the remainder of the year.

Grapefruit supplies are expected to be about 15 percent below the record supplies of 1938, but they still will be bigger than in any other year. Almost half the current crop is located in Florida. Production in Texas has been increasing rapidly, and this year Texas has about 40 percent of the total crop. California and Arizona are expected to produce the remaining 10 percent. Changes in the amount of grapefruit marketed from month to month are not as pronounced as they used to be due to the large crops produced in recent years. Shipments from Florida usually are heaviest from mid-November to mid-May with March and April the peak months. Heavy shipments from Texas ordinarily come from mid-November through March, with March the peak month.

Production of winter and spring varieties of oranges--those that are usually marketed between October and May--are expected to be only slightly smaller than last year's record crop. Slightly more than half of the current crop is expected to come from Florida, and around 40 percent from California. The decrease in supplies from last year's level is due almost entirely to a below-average crop in California. Florida production is expected to be the largest on record. As in the case of grapefruit, orange marketings have tended to be more evenly distributed throughout the year because of large crops in recent years.

(OVER)

Supplies of potatoes in the late producing States--the major source of supply during the winter and early spring months--now are expected to be a little below last year's level. Last month it appeared supplies would be more plentiful than in 1938 but unfavorable growing conditions in September pulled down production prospects by about 5 million bushels. Marketings of potatoes from these States ordinarily are heaviest in October and November when harvesting of the crop is at its peak.

Outlook for sweetpotatoes likewise has shifted and it now seems supplies will be slightly smaller than a year ago, instead of slightly larger. Peak marketings of sweetpotatoes generally come in October and supplies then decrease seasonally until the season ends in June.

Cranberry prospects improved during September. The crop now is expected to be 190, 000 barrels (40 percent) bigger than a year ago, and around 40,000 barrels more than the amount of cranberries expected a month ago.

Dried bean production prospects continued to improve in September and total supplies for the 1939-40 marketing season now are expected to be only 1 million bags (5 percent) smaller than the record supplies of the season which just ended. In August, bean supplies were expected to be 17 percent smaller than a year ago. Wholesale and retail prices of dried beans advanced sharply in mid-September after the start of hostilities in Europe. Since mid-September a good part of the wholesale price increase in navy beans has been wiped out. Up to October 10, retail prices of navy beans had shown only a slight falling off.

Butter and egg production usually decline at this time of the year, and reach their low point at the end of the year. Seasonal low point in egg production generally comes in November, whereas butter production is lowest in December. During the remainder of 1939, butter production is expected to be relatively large for the last quarter of the year, but not quite as large as the high level of 1938. Egg production, however, probably will continue above its 1938 level.

October, November, and December are the months in which poultry is sold in largest volume. Marketings during this period are above current requirements and consequently considerable quantities are stored for use in the first half of the year when marketings are lightest. Poultry supplies this year are expected to be more plentiful than in 1938.

"SURPLUS AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES"

The list of commodities which the Secretary of Agriculture has designated as "surplus agricultural commodities" (under the Food Stamp Plan) remains unchanged. On October 16, these surplus foods, which are in abundant supply, were:

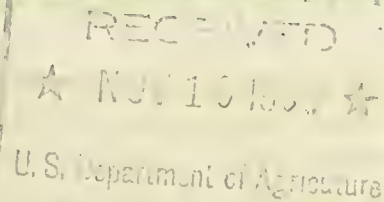
BUTTER, EGGS, RAISINS, PORK LARD, DRIED PRUNES, ONIONS (EXCEPT GREEN ONIONS), DRY BEANS, APPLES, FRESH PEARS, FRESH SNAP BEANS, WHEAT FLOUR, WHOLE WHEAT FLOUR, CORN MEAL.

CONSUMERS MARKET SERVICE

Issued by Consumers' Counsel Division

Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C.

422CM
Volume III, Number 23



November 1, 1939.

November marks the start of the season for Florida tangerines and California Navel oranges. Supplies of most of the major fruits and the staple vegetables are relatively large. Cranberries and brussels sprouts usually are more plentiful in November than in any other month of the year. During the month, shipments of both oranges and grapefruit increase seasonally whereas apple, grape, and pear marketings decline. Egg and butter marketings continue to decline and come pretty close to their low point for the year. But poultry marketings still tend upward on their way to the December peak.

Bulk of tender green vegetable supplies during the winter months come from Southern and far Western States. Often during the early winter months, excess rainfall or frosts damage winter vegetable crops and result in temporary shortages of supplies of the tender vegetables. To date growing conditions in the Southern and Western States have been fairly good. Farmers in these areas are reported to have planted a slightly larger acreage than in 1938 to the earliest winter vegetable crops.

Most of the more hardy vegetables such as cabbage, potatoes, onions, and sweetpotatoes come from the northern warehouses, where part of the crops just harvested are kept for winter marketing. Smaller cabbage supplies, but much larger onion supplies than last year are in prospect for this winter. Production of Danish type cabbage - the variety which develops into a compact hard head and thus can be stored readily - is expected to be about 40 percent smaller than last year's big crop, and below average. Production of domestic type cabbage - which is used widely for manufacture of kraut - probably will be half the size of the unusually large 1938 crop. Onion production, however, is expected to be around 20 percent bigger than last year and well above average. Outlook still is for slightly smaller crops of sweetpotatoes and potatoes than in 1938.

Meat supplies during the remainder of 1939 still are expected to be much larger than last year. Largest increase over 1938 levels is in prospect for pork. Beef supplies may not differ much from a year ago, with increases in better grade beef being balanced by smaller supplies of lower grade beef.

(OVER)

Lamb supplies in November may continue smaller than a year ago but starting in December when the season for grain-fed lambs begins, the outlook is for supplies above last year's level. Lamb and beef supplies generally decline seasonally in November, but pork supplies ordinarily increase.

Size of the brussels sprouts crop this year can't be determined because there are no official production estimates. Good quality sprouts are firm, and have a good green color and a fresh or bright appearance. Although puffy sprouts are edible, they usually are poor quality and have a poor flavor. Considerable waste is involved in preparing sprouts with wilted, yellowed, or riddled leaves.

Considerably more cranberries than last year are in prospect for the coming holiday season. Cranberry season ordinarily runs from September through December, with supplies most plentiful in November. Top quality cranberries are firm, and have a fresh plump appearance and high luster. Shrivelled, dull and soft cranberries ordinarily are of poor quality. Moisture on cranberries which have just come out of cold storage is not a sign of poor quality. However berries that are damp due to injury or damage are usually tough.

Latest check on the level of wholesale food prices shows that on October 21, prices were 10 percent above pre-war (mid-August). In mid-August prices were considerably below their 1938 level. Despite the increase since, on October 21 food prices still were lower than in 1938, but the difference between the two levels had been considerably narrowed.

Rapid decline in wholesale cane sugar prices has been an outstanding development in the food markets the past two weeks. Prior to the war, cane refiners were selling sugar at \$4.40 a hundred pounds. Immediately after the declaration of war prices were boosted to \$5.75. By early October they had dropped to \$5.50, and on October 30, to \$5.00. While wholesale prices of refined sugar on October 30, were 60 cents a hundred above pre-war levels, the wholesale price of raw sugar was up only 3 cents a hundred pounds.

"SURPLUS AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES"

One item has been dropped from the list of commodities which the Secretary of Agriculture has designated as "surplus agricultural commodities" (under the Food Order Stamp Plan). On November 1 these surplus foods, which are in abundant supply, were:

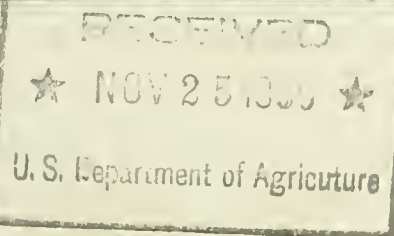
BUTTER, EGGS, RAISINS, PORK LARD, DRIED PRUNES, ONIONS (EXCEPT GREEN ONIONS), DRY BEANS, APPLES, FRESH PEARS, WHEAT FLOUR, WHOLE WHEAT FLOUR, CORN MEAL.

CONSUMERS MARKET SERVICE

Issued by Consumers' Counsel Division

Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Washington, D. C.

Volume III, Number 24



November 15, 1939

Food supplies for the Thanksgiving table will be much more plentiful than they were a year ago. Biggest increases over 1938 supplies are in turkeys, cranberries, and nuts. This year's turkey crop is the biggest on record. Current crops of almonds and walnuts have been surpassed in size only once, and the 1939 cranberry crop is the fourth largest we've had.

Increases over 1938 levels also are expected in supplies of fresh pork, better grade beef, better grade lamb, poultry, apples, Florida oranges, lard, onions, celery, and eggs. Potato, sweetpotato, and canned & dried fruit supplies probably won't differ much from last year. But decreases are in prospect for grapefruit, California oranges, tangerines, lower grade beef, butter, canned vegetables, and cabbage.

Nearly six million more turkeys than in 1938, an increase of almost 25 percent, will be available for marketing this year. Since these turkeys are expected to weigh a little more than last year the increase in supplies will be larger than indicated by the change in numbers. Marketings started unusually early this year. Nevertheless, the proportion of the total supply that will be available for sale after Thanksgiving is expected to be larger than last year.

There are three Government grades for turkeys -- U. S. Prime (Grade A), U. S. Choice (Grade B), and U. S. Commercial (Grade C) usually found in markets. Difference in grade depends largely on the amount of fat on the carcass, the flesh covering the breast, thighs, and back, and the care used in killing and dressing the turkey. Turkeys that are bruised so as to make an appreciable part of the carcass inedible, or emaciated birds are not given Government grades. Generally, the grade is stamped on the shipping box, which contains several turkeys. Sometimes, however, birds are tagged individually.

Government-grade tags or stamps also indicate the age of the turkey. Turkeys less than a year old are classified as "young". They are soft meated, have a flexible breast bone, and require less time to cook than "old" turkeys. Tom or male turkeys run to heavier weights than hen or female turkeys. In deciding the proper size turkey to buy, consumers should remember that the edible meat in a turkey represents about two-thirds of its dressed weight.

(over)

Nearly one-and-a-half times as many cranberries as in 1938 are expected for this year. In 1938, supplies were relatively small (475 thousand barrels) due to unfavorable growing conditions. This year the crop has jumped to about 670 thousand barrels of 100 lbs. each. In years of big supplies large quantities of cranberries are canned. Consequently the increase in marketings of fresh cranberries over 1938 levels probably won't be as marked as the production increase.

Unusually large nut supplies are in prospect for this year. Combined production of almonds, walnuts, filberts, and pecans is expected to be about 20 percent larger than last year and about the same amount above average. Sharpest increases over last year are expected in almonds and pecans.

Chestnuts used at Thanksgiving time are all imported because domestic production was wiped out some years ago by plant disease. Bulk of our chestnuts come from Italy. Production this year in Italy is expected to be above average.

Canned vegetables are not as plentiful as they've been in the past two seasons, but supplies still are larger than the amounts usually consumed. Extremely large carry-overs of canned items from last season have offset a good part of the marked reduction in the current pack. Most of the reduction from the record supply levels of the past two seasons is indicated for peas and snap beans. Supplies of these items probably are about 20 percent smaller than in 1938. The reduction in canned tomato supplies is about 4 percent, whereas a 13 percent drop from 1938 levels is indicated for canned corn.

Total supplies of dried fruits may be slightly smaller than last year's large supplies. Decreases of about 10 percent from 1938 levels are expected in dried prunes and raisins.

